

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

introduction: the opening section of a work of literature;

- In a **narrative**—a story or other plot-driven work, the introduction captures the reader’s attention.
- In **nonfiction**, such as an **essay** or **article**, the introduction must grab the reader’s attention, establish the author’s **tone**, or attitude toward the subject, and include a **thesis statement** that expresses the composition’s main idea.

lead: the beginning of the introduction, often hooks the reader in and raises questions in the reader’s mind

HERE’S HOW

Step 1: Determine purpose and audience. Think about who will read your composition and why you are writing it.

Step 2: Draft a thesis statement. For essays, declare your main idea and purpose in a thesis statement.

Step 3: Experiment. Try out several different introductions suitable to your purpose and audience. Sometimes the best introduction becomes clear after the text is drafted.

<p>For narratives, possibilities include beginning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• with dialogue• in the middle of the action• with a character’s reaction• with a dramatic image• by introducing the narrator• with a provocative sentence• with a generalization	<p>For essays, possibilities include beginning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• with an anecdote brief personal story• with a quotation• with an intriguing fact• by posing a question• with a news item• by addressing the reader directly• with vivid description
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STUDENT LESSON SUMMARY, CONTINUED

Step 4: Evaluate your introduction. After you complete a draft, use questions such as the following to help decide how you might best revise the introduction:

For **narratives**:

- Is the introduction helping the purpose of the narrative?
- Is the introduction well-suited or matched to the audience?
- Does the introduction make you want to continue reading?
- Does the introduction create a mood?

For **essays**:

- Is the introduction consistent with purpose and audience?
- Does the introduction contain a clear thesis statement?
- Does the introduction establish a tone?
- Is the introduction both interesting and factually correct?
- Does it contain enough information?
- Does it tell readers what they can expect to learn in the rest of the essay?